

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16051 101811Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16051

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, UR
SUBJECT: GINZBURG TRIAL: FIRST DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION

1. EMBOFF IN KALUGA REPORTED FOLLOWING BY TELEPHONE
EARLY EVENING JULY 10, AFTER SPEAKING WITH MRS.
GINZBURG AT CONCLUSION OF FIRST DAY OF TRIAL:
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16051 101811Z

-- AFTERNOON SESSION, WHICH FINISHED AT ABOUT 7:00 P.M.,
INVOLVED TESTIMONY OF 10 PROSECUTION WITNESSES; NO
DEFENSE WITNESSES HAVE YET BEEN CALLED;

-- GINZBURG HAD SUBMITTED SOME 80 PETITIONS TO THE COURT,
BUT NONE WAS APPROVED;

-- THE EMPHASIS OF THE QUESTIONING WAS ON THE LITERATURE THAT GINZBURG ALLEGEDLY DISTRIBUTED, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON SOLZHENITSYN'S "GULAG;" ALSO MENTIONED WAS ROBERT CONQUEST'S "THE GREAT TERROR" AND A RECORDING OF SOLZHENITSYN'S POETRY;

-- ACCORDING TO MRS. GINZBURG, MANY OF THE WITNESSES SAID THEY DID NOT RECEIVE MATERIAL DIRECTLY FROM GINZBURG, AND SEVERAL WITNESSES SAID THEY HAD REQUESTED MATERIAL OF GINZBURG.

2. THE ATMOSPHERE TURNED UGLY OUTSIDE OF THE COURTROOM AS GINZBURG WAS BEING DRIVEN AWAY IN A PRISON TRUCK. A CROWD OF ABOUT 40 FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING SAKHAROV, SHOUTED "ALEK, ALEK" AS THE TRUCK PASSED. ONE OF THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN SIMULTANEOUSLY SHOUTED A PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE RUSSIAN EXPLETIVE. SOME OF THE CROWD ANGRILY TURNED TOWARD THE PLAINCLOTHESMAN, DEMANDING TO NO AVAIL THAT HE BE ARRESTED.

3. ONLY TWO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS WERE ON HAND DURING THE FIRST DAY, ONE FROM AP AND ONE FROM REUTERS. AN OFFICIAL OF THE MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT BRIEFED THEM ON THE TRIAL IN THE AFTERNOON, AS HE HAD AT MID-DAY.
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 16051 101811Z

4. TWO SIDELIGHTS: WHEN ASKED BY THE JUDGE TO STATE HIS NATIONALITY, GINZBURG REPLIED "ZEK," THE RUSSIAN SLANG FOR PRISONER; MRS. GINZBURG APPEARED PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY FATIGUED AS SHE EXITED THE COURTHOUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND HER LOWER LIP WAS BLOODY AS THE RESULT OF HER NERVOUSLY AND PROBABLY UNCONSCIOUSLY BITING IT DURING THE TRIAL. MATLOCK

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